

## **Chapter 4: Recommended Actions to Address Issues**

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### **The Public Workshop Process**

During the months of September and October 2004, Nevada Division of State Parks staff conducted a series of four (4) public workshops across the state to develop actions to address the issues identified in the previous chapter. Public workshops were conducted in Carson City, Elko, Ely and Las Vegas.

Each workshop was comprised of a general session open to the public, including federal and state agencies, county, municipal and special districts, American Indian Tribes, interested members of the public, trail users groups or clubs and commercial organizations. Recommended actions were developed and at the conclusion of each workshop, participants were given 10 colored dots to assist in prioritizing the importance of the recommended actions. Participants placed their colored dots on those actions they felt were most important.

This chapter takes the priority issues and presents recommended actions for managers and trail users. The priority recommended actions are from those issues that ranked the highest. These recommended actions reflect statewide priorities; local and regional priorities may differ.

## **ISSUE #1: LOSS OF PUBLIC ACCESS TO TRAILS**

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### **1a. Identify access points, plan for access and acquire easements for trails**

- Inventory and map trails and trailheads to identify public access points and make available to agencies involved with land use decisions
- Acquire fee simple title, rights of way and easements to protect existing access points and connections
- Encourage zoning for public access; enact access ordinances at the local level
- Develop plans that identify trails, open space and public access points
- Provide additional scoring points in the Recreational Trails Program for projects identified in local and regional trail plans and open space plans

### **1b. Coordinate trail access needs with stakeholders**

- Improve public awareness and provide information about the benefits of land, easement and rights of way donations
- Work with all stakeholders to promote a common understanding of access problems and trail benefits and to develop solutions
- Coordinate planning efforts between public and agencies; make information concerning public meetings, workshops and planning sessions available to the public

## **ISSUE #2: LACK OF FUNDING FOR TRAILS**

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### **2a. Encourage sharing of resources for trail planning**

- Explore alternative funding sources for National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) compliance and make information available
- Partner with volunteers to complete NEPA compliance documents
- Identify potential funding sources for regional trails planning
- Encourage and develop partnerships with volunteer groups to secure grant funding for projects on federally managed public land
- Develop case studies that showcase the planning and development of well designed and managed regional trail systems
- Create clearinghouse for announcing public meetings
- Involve interested stakeholders in the development of regional trail plans

### **2b. Identify existing and potential new resources to support trails**

- Consider private sector support like endowments and trusts, as well as support from businesses
- Develop list of funding sources with contact information; create trail funding clearinghouse
- Nevada Division of State Parks provide grant writing workshops; partner with universities for grant writing assistance

## **ISSUE #3: CLOSURE OF TRAILS AND ROADS**

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### **3a. Preserve existing trails**

- Inventory and protect areas that provide trail experiences and make the information available to trail users, land use managers and decision makers
- Acquire fee simple title, rights of way and easements to protect existing access points and connections

### **3b. Promote mitigation before closure**

- Include trail user input when considering alternatives to closures, mitigate loss of trail opportunities through the creation of new or alternative opportunities
- Educate trail users on trail use etiquette and environmental ethics
- Develop site specific management prescriptions for trail systems that includes signage and maintenance plans

## **ISSUE #4: NOT ENOUGH TRAILS**

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### **4a. Increase the quantity and quality of trails in Nevada for multiple trail uses**

- Establish connections and linkages between urban communities and rural trail opportunities
- Encourage the development of trails and support facilities for specialized trail uses
- Identify and mark trails for different/specialized uses
- Establish long distance trails and connections to them

### **4b. Inform the public about existing trails close to communities where they live**

- Grant additional scoring points to trail projects that develop and provide trail maps
- Explore private/public partnerships to develop and distribute trail maps and information to residents and communities

### **4c. Increase funding devoted to expanding trail opportunities for Nevadans**

- Develop regional marketing plans for educating local, state and federal politicians on the value of investing in trails in the state of Nevada

## **ISSUE #5: NOT ENOUGH SUPPORT FACILITIES NEAR TRAILS**

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### **5a. Enhance and expand support facilities**

- Grant additional scoring points for Recreational Trails Program projects that provide support facilities
- Encourage and promote trails that link to communities and existing support facilities
- Develop specialized support facilities and design standards for specific trail uses
- Create 'Adopt a Trailhead' program to establish maintenance at trailheads

## **ISSUE #6: EROSION AND DETERIORATION OF TRAILS**

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### **6a. Encourage sustainable design for new trail construction**

- Encourage sustainable design and construction of new trails with preventative maintenance standards
- Develop and produce trail design and maintenance training workshops
- Encourage the use of standardized trail assessment methods to conduct trail condition assessments and maintenance needs

### **6b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets**

- Promote maintenance of existing trails through volunteers; develop partnerships with volunteers for trail maintenance
- Create 'Adopt a Trail' program to provide maintenance on trails and encourage organized trail user groups and trail users to become more active
- Create an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects
- Develop clearinghouse for contacting trail managers to report trail maintenance needs

## **ISSUE #7: NOT ENOUGH GOOD INFORMATION MATERIAL ABOUT NEVADA TRAILS**

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### **7a. Provide current trail information and detailed maps**

- Complete statewide trails inventory and produce maps, brochures, etc, with standard symbols
- Grant additional scoring for Recreational Trails Program projects that provide trail maps with new trail construction and encourage posting of information; provide trail information along trails
- Create statewide website with information about trails in Nevada
- Post updated maps and information at trailheads, visitor centers, and on the Internet
- Provide GPS coordinates on trail maps



## **ISSUE #8: LACK OF TRAIL ETIQUETTE AND ENVIRONMENTAL ETHICS**

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### **8a. Expand trail etiquette and environmental ethic resources**

- Incorporate trail etiquette and environmental ethic materials into school and youth programs
- Advocate for the motor vehicle industry to practice responsible Off-Highway Vehicle (OHV) advertising
- Encourage local media to participate in Public Service Announcements (PSA) such as “Tread Lightly”, “Leave No Trace” and “Pack It In-Pack It Out”

### **8b. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails**

- Mark and sign trails and trailheads with etiquette and environmental ethic information
- Sign multiple use trails with specific yield instructions for trail users
- Provide information about allowed uses on specific trails

## **ISSUE #9: INADEQUATE TRAIL MAINTENANCE**

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### **9a. Prioritize reconstruction over new development**

- Encourage sustainable design and construction of new trails with preventative maintenance standards
- Incorporate sustainable design standards to existing trails
- Reconstruct existing trails to meet low maintenance standards

### **9b. Establish partnerships to augment trail budgets**

- Form partnerships with private sector and public agencies to cooperatively fund trail maintenance projects
- Promote maintenance of existing trails through volunteers; develop partnerships with volunteers for trail maintenance
- Create 'Adopt a Trail' program to provide maintenance on trails and encourage organized trail user groups and trail users to become more active
- Create an interagency volunteer information clearinghouse to match volunteers with local trail maintenance projects
- Develop clearinghouse for contacting trail managers to report trail maintenance needs
- Develop case studies that showcase successful trail maintenance program and methods
- Better use National Trails Day as an opportunity to recognize volunteers and the importance of trail maintenance

### **9c. Promote and support volunteer trail and trailhead maintenance**

- Organize clean up days and create "Adopt a Trail" program to assist agencies efforts
- Create an annual award for the best maintained trail/trail system in the state using volunteer assistance

## **ISSUE #10: TOO MUCH LITTER AND TRASH ALONG TRAILS**

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### **10a. Reduce litter and trash on trails and trailheads**

- Encourage Recreational Trails Program projects to provide trash receptacles at trailheads and along trails; install convenient and interesting trash and recycling receptacles
- Promote “Pack It In-Pack It Out” with information along trails and at trailheads
- Create education programs that provide information about resource damage due to trash and litter

### **10b. Enforce/follow rules and regulations**

- Encourage enforcement of current laws
- Create education programs that provide information about current laws and regulations
- Develop clearinghouse for posting current laws and regulations

## **ISSUE #11: LACK OF DIRECTIONAL SIGNS ALONG TRAILS AND AT TRAILHEADS**

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### **11a. Enhance and expand support facilities**

- Grant additional scoring points to Recreational Trails Program projects that provide signage along trails and at trailheads
- Develop statewide directional and regulatory signing standards and standard messages

## **ISSUE #12: LACK OF TRAILS CLOSE TO HOME**

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### **12a. Establish trail opportunities close to home**

- Coordinate with developers to include trails and public access to adjacent trails within master plans
- Encourage urban to rural linkages and connections

### **12b. Promote interagency coordination to address regional needs**

- Develop regional trail system plans
- Provide additional scoring points to Recreational Trails Program projects that are included in regional plans
- Inventory existing trails and identify regional needs
- Partner with other agencies to ensure degree of uniformity and quality among trail systems
- Involve the public in trail policy, planning and management decisions
- Develop clearinghouse for public meeting announcements

## **ISSUE #13: TOO MANY DIFFERENT TYPES OF USERS ON TRAILS**

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### **13a. Address user conflicts and safety issues**

- Design, designate and manage trails for planned uses
- Use staff and volunteers to patrol high conflict trails

### **13b. Encourage shared use and cooperation on trails**

- Post informational signs regarding appropriate trail use at trailheads and along trails
- Promote “Share the Trail” and yield information to reduce conflict